



Board of County Commissioners Leon County, Florida

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Budget Discussion Item Executive Summary

June 22, 2010

Title:

Acceptance of the Status Report on the Miccosukee Community Center

Staff:

Parwez Alam, County Administrator

Alan Rosenzweig, Assistant County Administrator

Scott Ross, Budget Director

Issue Briefing:

This item is a status report on the Miccosukee Community Center on the funding provided to the Center for facility improvements and renovations. During the April 13, 2010 meeting Commissioner Akinyemi requested staff develop a budget discussion item regarding the Miccosukee Community Center.

Fiscal Impact:

There is no fiscal impact if the Board implements staff recommendation. Construction for this facility is estimated to cost \$2.12 million.

Staff Recommendation:

Option #1: Accept the status report on the Miccosukee Community Center.

Report and Discussion

Background:

The Miccosukee Community Center was the first operating community center in Leon County, opening its doors in the mid 1950s. The Center is located on one acre of land donated by a family to the County in 1958. An additional one acre was purchased in 1995 by the County adjacent to the facility for auxiliary parking.

During the September 23, 2003 meeting, the Board modified the One-Cent Sales Tax Extension project list to include Greenways and Parks and Recreation (attachment #1) prior to the adoption of the FY 2004 Budget. Miccosukee Community Center was on the project list and funded at \$50,000 for improvements to the existing facility (including code compliance, accessibility, ceiling, and wallboard replacements). During FY 2004 community meetings were held in an effort to gather input from members of the community regarding the facility improvements. During this fiscal year approximately \$11,956 of improvements were made to the facility.

In FY 2005, an additional \$110,000 was allocated to the Miccosukee Community Center for renovations to the facility as well as adding an additional 500 square feet "multi use" space.

During the January 25, 2005 Parks and Facilities Workshop, an additional \$190,288 was approved by the Board to support the renovation of the Center. The Board further directed staff not to proceed with the renovations to the facility until an official scope of project could be defined by the Board subsequent to a Town Hall meeting.

On September 20, 2005, the Board conducted a workshop on the funding allocation of the County Community Centers. During this workshop, the Board authorized an additional \$175,000 to be added to the existing budget for the construction of a new Miccosukee Community Center.

A public hearing was held on August 22, 2006 to purchase land adjacent to the park for the construction of a new center. The Board approved the purchase of three parcels of land for approximately \$500,000, which includes fees associated with the purchase. The FY 2007 budget allocated an additional \$500,000 to the Miccosukee Community Center for land acquisition and preliminary design for a new community center.

During the October 24, 2006 meeting, the Board approved the reallocation of \$800,000 from the Northeast Community Park to the Miccosukee Community Center project. This additional funding was towards the construction of the new community center and the total budget for the new Center was now \$1.5 million.

In preparation for the FY 2008 budget and as a preemptive action on the impending property tax reductions, the Board implemented a 120 day freeze on capital projects, including the new Miccosukee Community Center. The purpose of this freeze was to provide the Board with flexibility in the prioritization of projects as part of the FY 2008 budget cycle.

During the June 27, 2007 budget workshops, the Board was informed that the cost of a new community center in Miccosukee would be \$2.5 million. Approximately \$1.2 million dollars in additional funds would be needed to complete the new center. This amount did not include the additional day to day operating costs that a new facility would generate. However, the cost to repair the existing facility was estimated at \$100,000. Staff recommended that the existing facility be repaired rather than construct a new facility in light of budget constraints and reductions. The Board approved staff's recommendations.

Analysis:

Since FY 2004, approximately \$271,000 has been spent on renovations and maintenance to the Miccosukee Community Center. The renovations and improvements initially approved by the Board during the June 27, 2007 workshop included replacing both rear deck and stairs, reversing the exit door swings, replacing all existing door hardware, restroom and plumbing improvements and installing additional exit lighting and smoke detectors. In addition staff has also addressed the following: chairs, tables, stove, refrigerator, audio visual screen, ceiling tiles, outdoor carpet for the front porch, flag pole, interior signs, blinds, AED unit, DVD/VCR, windows, shed roof, new front door, new kitchen floor, exterior painting, and additional insulation.

During the April 13, 2010 meeting, the Board approved the Cooperative Community Gardening Program. This program designated three locations in Leon County for the community gardens, including a garden in the Miccosukee Community. The community is utilizing the open space adjacent to the Miccosukee Park, previously designated for the new community center. The Miccosukee Community is committed to establishing a community garden in order to help provide the community with easy access to fresh vegetables, educate children on the process of growing food, and provide a sense of community.

Staff estimates that the cost of constructing a new community center would be approximately \$2.12 million. This amount does not include the additional day to day operating costs that a new facility would generate. Given the investment the County has made in the existing facility, the current economic conditions, and budget constraints, staff does not recommend constructing another facility.

Options:

1. Accept the status report on the Miccosukee Community Center.
2. Do not accept the status report on the Miccosukee Community Center.
3. Board Direction.

Recommendation:

Options #1

